

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Waste Management Policy 06-03

Related to

Mercury-Containing Equipment (MCE)

November 21, 2006

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to allow generator flexibility when managing mercury-containing equipment.

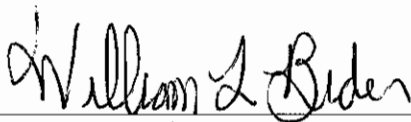
Background

In August 2005, federal law included mercury-containing equipment (MCE) as universal waste. MCE is a whole device, or part of a device, that contains elemental mercury integral to its function, including thermostats, barometers, manometers, valves, flow meters, light switches, regulators, pressure relief gauges, water treatment gauges, and gas safety relays. MCE does not include batteries and lamps. The mercury in these devices is usually encapsulated in an ampule or other housing inside a relatively small portion of the whole device. The devices are usually used for measuring temperature, pressure, or for completing electrical circuits.

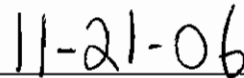
Action

The State intends to adopt the current, more flexible Federal regulations pertaining to mercury-containing equipment managed as universal waste under 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 273. However, in the interim, the State will allow generators to comply with the Federal regulations as long as they manage the waste as universal waste.

This policy shall remain in effect until it is revoked or it is rendered obsolete by the aforementioned change in the Kansas hazardous waste regulations.



William L. Bider
Director, Bureau of Waste Management



Date